Raftsman's Journal.



S. B. ROW, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

CLEARFIELD, PA., DEC. 15, 1858.

A LIBERAL PROPOSITION.

Considerable discussion has recently been going on in the newspapers as to the probability of effecting a complete and substantial union of the Opposition to the Buchanan Democracy in the canvass of 1860. Several propositions have been made-one asking the Republicans to discard their distinguishing name and to abandon their most prominent idea, and another suggesting that the Americans should drop their organization and throw aside the main feature of their platform. Neither of these, as a matter of course, are practicable. because there are men in both wings of the Opposition who would not submit to an entire obliteration of their principles, though all are doubtless willing to make fair and reasonable concessions. The N. Y. Tribune, of a recent date, has an article on the subject, which it er conveniences. concludes with the following proposition:-That the Americans and old-line Whigs name the President, conceding to the Republicans the Vice President, with this simple condition, agreed to on all hands and proclaimed to the public, that the Administration thus formed shall do all in its power to confine Slavery within the limits of the existing Slave States. than any other two of the remaining districts. It proposes no platform-"no party Shibboleth"-nor does it ask the President to do anything which he deems unconstitutional, but merely to exert whatever power he may have in the premises-such as appointing Governors, Judges, Marshals, Land Officers, &c., in the Territories, who will use their influence in the proper way-to prevent the extension of Slavery. Should this suggestion receive the assent of the other branch of the Opposition, the Tribune urges its acceptance by the Republicans. The proposition is a good one, and will doubtless be favorably received by all parties concerned, and its general adoption cannot fail to prove a death-blow to Buchanan Locofocoism in 1860.

A House Divided AGAINST ITSELF .- The President and; his Secretary of the Treasury, says the Delaware County Republican, are any thing but a unit in their views upon the subject of an alteration in the present tariff. While the former recommends the imposition of specific duties on all articles to which they are adapted, the latter adheres to the principles of the act now in force, which is an ad valorem tariff. Mr. Buchanan North, and Mr. Cobb South, can afford to differ on the question, provided each can give satisfaction to his supporters in the section of the Union he represents. The people of the North, however, have spoken plainly upon the subject of protection. They will be heard at Washington, during the present session-and their voice will sweep away the false notions of Federal officers whose policy is antagonistic to their interests.

A New Route for the Sunbury and Eric Railroad has been run between Buena Vista and Tionesta, a distance of seventeen miles. The course is up Owl Creek Summit, in M'Kean county: then down Ten Mile Run to Bower's. This avoids any tunneling. The whole line, from Sinnemahoning to Tionesta, is a new survey, the heaviest grade only 52 4-0 feet to the mile. The Sunbury and Eric Railroad can be constructed its whole length, it is said, from Sunbury to the City of Erie, without a single tunnel. The heaviest cutting on the whole road will not exceed thirty feet.

SAVE YOUR RAGS .- There are in the United States nearly eight hundred paper mills, which produce two hundred millions of dollars worth of paper. To manufacture this large amount of paper, about sixteen millions of dollars worth of rags are required, and this large quantity must be saved from the scraps of the domestic circle. Is it not apparent to all that economy should be practiced by families in this particular, even if they do not desire to profit by the saving themselves?

The Steamer Washington from Nicaragua arrived at New York on the 11th. She entered the harbor of San Juan on the 16th. The government of Nicaragua refused to permit her passengers to go through the country. The British ships Leopard and Valorous were in port. Sir Gore Ousley was on board the Cutter. The Washington was boarded by the officers of the British ships, who suspected her of having fillibusters on board. They failed, however, to find any.

We publish to-day the "Memorial to the Citizens of Clearfield County," by "The Tax-Payers of Clearfield," on the subject of the removal of the county seat. We also give a reply to the same, over the signature of "Curwensville." Our columns are open to the discussion of both sides of the question.

DECAPITATED. - Senator Douglas, who was Chairman of the Committee on Territories, has been ousted from that position, and Green, of Missouri, is put in his place. This is a sort of proscription which cannot fail to return and plague the inventors.

WAR BEIWEEN SPAIN AND MEXICO .- It is stated on good authority that the Spanish Minister called on Gen. Cass on Sunday afternoon last and announced that Spain had declared war against Mexico. This news has produced great excitement at Washington. See a number of new advertisements.

THE COUNTY SEAT QUESTION.

Memorial to the Citizens of Clearfield County : The citizens and Tax-payers of the borough Clearfield, address themselves to their tellowcitizens of the county of Clearfield, in reference to the present speculative agitation as to elligent Tax-payers of the county a few reasons against said removal, which they hope will receive some thought.

1st. When the Legislature created the county, they authorized the appointment of three Commissioners, who should receive from individuals or corporations, offers of land or money or both, as an inducement for locating the county seat upon the lands of the proposer; Roland Curtin, James Smith and John Fleming were appointed Commissioners for that purpose by the Governor. They gave notice that they would receive proposals as they were authorized. Several propositions were made for the location of the county seat. Abraham Witmer owned the land upon which Clearfield is built, and he proposed to give to the Commissioners, nine lots of land in Clearfield and \$3,000 in cash, provided, they would locate the county seat upon his land. His proposal was reported back to the Legislature, and was accepted by them. A law was then passed fixing the county seat on his land and accepting his proposition. The town was laid out, and a report and plot of the town was filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Abraham Witmer paid his \$3,000 as he agreed to do, and he conveyed the lots to the county. Afterwards the Commonwealth granted him a patent for his tract of land. All the owners of lots in Clearfield claim under Abraham Witmer. Some of them have conveyance directly from himself. It will be seen therefore, that a contract was entered into by the Commonwealth on the one side, and Abraham Witmer on the other. On the faith of that contract, the Tax-payers of Clearfield have exand rendering it accessible by roads and oth-

Can that contract now be broken? If it can. must not the county refund the money that it has received, to the lot-holders, and pay them the damages that results from its infringement? The money alone, and its interest, will amount to more than the expenses of the proposed

new Court-house. 2nd. The borough of Clearfield and her citizens, pay more of the county rates and levies The assessed value of property in that Borough at the last triennial assessment was \$69,597. The assessed value of lands owned by citizens of the borough of Clearfield in other parts of the county, at the same assessment, was \$120,-467. Making a total of \$190,064.

The assessed value of property in the borough of Curwensville at the same assessment was \$31,685. The assessed value of lands owned in other parts of the county by her citizens, was \$12,056. Making a total of \$43,641. So that whilst the county rates were 6 mills, Clearfield and her citizens pay \$1140.38, and Curwensville and her citizens pay \$262.44.

The assessed value of seated property in 1856, in Pike township, was \$88,897, in Lawrence township, \$82,809. Total, \$171.706. Tax, \$1030.40. Less than Clearfield borough, \$109.98. Clearfield and her citizens paying more county tax by \$109.98 each year, than the whole of the populous townships of Pike and Lawrence.

3d. Clearfield borough is in reality a more central position than Curwensville. TheCherry Tree is in Indiana county, at the extreme south western corner of the county and Karthaus is in Clearfield county at least 7 miles from the county line, so that if it be 31 miles from Curwensville to Cherry Tree, it is 38 miles from Curwensville to the northern county line and Clearfield must be passed in going there. The distance from Reeder Kings (near the Cherry Tree) to Clearfield, has always been counted at 40 miles and the distance from Clearfield to Three Runs the extreme north eastern point, is at least 38 miles. The distance across the county is about 36 miles and Clearfield is within two miles of the centre of the county even in that direction. These distances however amount to very little, in considering this question, inasmuch as the erection of Pine county has become a fixed fact, and necessarily in its erection, the location of Clearfield becomes completely central, whilst if Curwensville were the county seat, it would erect Pine county, without approaching too near the county seat.

4th. The offer of capitalists in Curwensville speculation, and there is nothing in it but sharp business tact The Legislature can have a dozen of offers of the same kind, from citizens of the county, any one of whom would make "a good thing" of it, even at that. Property in the vicinty is enhanced in value and the pockets of the speculator are filled with the proceeds of the "nice operation." Look at the reverse of the picture. The mechanic, the laboring man or the business man in Clearfield who has invested his money in buying a lot and building him a home, on the faith of a contract with the Commonwealth, finds his honest earnings stripped from him to swell the already "large piles" of the sharp business man. But say they, Clearfield and her citizens must build the Court House, in other words, the money of A. must be taken perforce, to build a house for the joint accommotion of A. B. C. & D. Look at the records of Jury trials in civil cases in our Courts, during the past five years, see who litigates, and for whom the Court House is used-Since May Term 1853, there have been but five causes originating in Clearfied or its immediate vicinity tried before a Jury of the County whilst in | route. the same space of time twenty-nine causes have gone to Juries of the county, all of which originated in the "peaceful" village of Curwensville, or with the citizens of that town,

or its immediate vicinity.

5th. Efforts are being made to prejudice the public mind, by arousing personal feeling against individuals in Clearfield; we pity the persons gifted with such petty narrowness of mind, as to envy any one, whatever his location, ary degree of personal position, and still more do we commiserate the condition of mind, possessed by him who looks with jealousy upon the prosperity of the seat of justice, of a county of which it should be his pride to be a citizen. All right minded men are proud of that which they, as one of a social community, can call their own, and we only need point to the fact that we have now in Clearfield 6 churches of different christian denominations, all built, not alone by this borough, but by contributions from citizens of the county, that our own citizens vie with each other in adorning and beautifying our village and that our public spirit in building roads and bridges and aiding in all other public works, will bear at least a favorable comparison with those of any other village in the

6th. Removals of the location of county seats, occasionally become necessary, when from the growth and development of one section of a county, its business is largely increased in a certain location, and the rapid administration of justice require the Courts to be in the midst of the mass of the population. No such extraordinary emergency occurs here; the increase of the county is even and regular, and no section of the county is so much more densely populated than the other, as to require inveigled away from her home in England any change.

county.

7th. It is assserted that a large increase of taxation must result from the erection of a new Court House and ponderous rows of ciphers, are held up to the startled gaze of the taxpayers, with a 3 to the left of them. \$30, 000,00 say they, this building will cost and a the removal of the county seat from Clearfield heavy increase of the next 7 days a contract can be completed with a competent workman, with responsible sureties, to take the old material, and erect and finish a new Court House 60 x 100, in as good style and of as durable materials as the best one in any of the adjoining counties, for \$15,000.

And further, that a committee of gentlemen of this Borough, of undoubted means, will guarantee (from their knowledge of the finances of the county) that there shall be no increase of taxation, and that if the means of the county at the present rate of taxation, shall be found inadequate, at once to meet the expense, that they will provide the funds, and look to the county for reimbursement, out of

the usual rate of taxation. The present inhabitants of Clearfield have paid for their property at its value as enhanced by the location of the county seat there, they also pay their taxes upon the value of that property thus enhanced, and in reality they have contributed largely towards all the county expenses; and the hope that their fellow citizes will accord to them as a community. those rights, that as individuals, the laws of land give them, sustain them now and will

sustain them until they are undeceived. THE TAX-PAYERS OF CLEARFIED. Dec. 8th. 1858.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Many of our cotemporaries deal severely with the President's late Message. Some of them charge the author with unmitigated falsehood, while others, more choice of terms, simply accuse him of a desire to misrepresent. pended some \$300,000 in erecting their town, The Press, speaking of Mr. Buchanan's views of the Kansas question, has a long article on the subject, which commences as follows:

"We do not know that we ever read with feelings of so much disgust any state paper as we have that part of the President's Message that relates to Kansas. The whole of it is a gross libel, from beginning to end."

The Pennsylvania Inquirer, always circumspect in its language, says:

"In its tone towards the people it is cold and repulsive-in that towards foreign countries it is warm and boastful, courteous, yet deadly. It lacks the elements of a first-class state paper. It is devoid of frankness, and steadily steers clear of the most important suggestions upon topics of the most urgent magnitude to the nation."

The New York Tribune says:

"To undertake to refute, within the compass of a newspaper article, all the sophisms, misrepresentations, distortations, and positive untruths that are crammed into a modern proslavery President's message, would be prepos-

"Independent," the intelligent Washington correspondent of the North American, thus refers to the message :

"Whether the President designed his Message for the express purpose, or not, he has furnished the staple of a new slavery agitation at the North, quite as potential as Uncle Tom's Cabin, though, perhaps, in a much less attractive form than that immensely popular publication. He has chosen precisely the sentment, and to renew the conflict in a more aggravated form. Kansas, Cuba, Mexico, the seizure of the Nortthern provinces, and the Amistad case are all so handled as to encourage this feeling, and, perhaps, were intended with special reference to that object."

THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMY.

President Buchanan, in his message, admits that the revenue of the country is wholly inadequate to the expenditurs of the country upon their present scale. The public debt on the 1st of July, in the present year, was \$54,910,772 66, to which \$10,000,000, the remaining half of the loan authorized on the 14th of June, is to be added, making the total public debt within a few dollars of sixty-five millions. Upon this state of things the President observes, first, that to resort to loans to be impossible to obtain sufficient territory to meet the ordinary expenses of government would be a ruinous policy; second, that the revenue must be increased by an amendment of the tariff in some particulars; and third, to erect the county buildings, is founded in that a rigid economy must be practiced. On this latter point he dwells with some minuteness. The objects of expenditure should be reduced in number and what appropriations are necessary should be strictly scrutinized. He has instructed the departments to cut down their estimates, and promises to aid Congress to do this to even a greater extent. This reads well. But now let us see how the President practices what he commends to Congress, bearing in mind that the public debt is already sixty-five millions of dollars, and the public revenue is not adequate to the public expenditures even of the most ordinary character. Under these circumstances he accompanies his homily on economy with the following recommendations, and these in addition to the ordinary appropriation bills :-

1. The purchase of Cuba. 2. Payment to Spain for the Amistad negroes.

3. The establishment of an indefinite number of military posts in Sonora and Chihuahua, and the support of an army to occupy them. 4. The employment of the army and navy to open and keep open the Nicaragua transit

5. The employment of the army and navy for the same purpose with reference to the Panama route. 6. The employment of the army and navy

for the same purpose with respect to the Tehuantepec route. 7. A resort to a war with Costa Rica and Nicaragua, if our demands are not complied

with at an early day. 8. The construction of more war steamer. 9. The construction by government aid of the great Pacific railroad.

10. Some undefined boons to the District of Columbia. The President is quite anxious that a rigid economy should be exercised, and intimates to his Secretaries that they must cut down their estimates as closely as possible-they must not ask anything from Congress beyond the bare appropriations for their respective departments-while he himself launches out into half a score pet projects of incalculable cost, for not more than one of which there is either reason or necessity. Suppose all or half of the President's recommendations are complied with, can the expenditures of the country be possibly kept within the revenue? And what will be the amount of the public

debt five years hence? Judge Eckles, of Utah, has placed in charge of Lord Napier, Miss Polydore, the young English girl in behalf of whose rescue from the Mormons the good offices of our Government were asked by the Government of Great Britain. The father of the rescued young lady is a lawyer of wealth and high standing, and has been for a long time engaged in efforts for the restoration of his daughter, who was several years ago.

CURWENSVILLE VS. CLEARFIELD.

MR. Row :- My attention has been called to "Memorial to the Citizens of Clearfield County," on the subject of the proposed removal of the county seat, published in the last number of the "Clearfield Republican." I am informed it was written by a gentleman "learned in the law," and that he was engaged in its composition for five consecutive days! After the "memorial" sheds his crockodile tears— where they will erect their buildings, and composition for five consecutive days! After hearing that his travail had been so great, you may imagine my surprise when I discovered, "wealthy men of Clearfield," of the present may imagine my surprise when I discovered, on its perusal, that he had brought forth so paltry an abortion. Methinks a more transparent effort at special pleading, or weaker tissue | the "poor laborers and mechanics," when he ot sophisms, was never concocted to deceive | could realize fifty or a hundred per cent by the and mislead the public. I fear should its learn- transaction? There is no "sharp business tact" ed author fail by his brilliant forensic efforts to perpetuate his fame, it will scarcely be safe for him to rely upon the classic style, grammatical accuracy, mournful pathos, or irrefra- mount? They never engage in any "sharp gable arguments of this splendid composition, to transmit his name to an admiring posterity.

Adopting the pulpit-polemic style, he divides his subject into seven distinct heads, and proceeds to give his "reasons," long drawn forth, why the people of Clearfield county should creet their public buildings and spend their money for the special advantage of the "wealthy" citizens of your "enterprising" and "public spirited" borough! Let us examine them briefly in their order.

1. He argues that the Legislature, by fixing the county seat on the lands of Abraham Witmer, (who paid \$3,000, as an inducement,) thereby entered into a contract, which, if violated, will compel the county to refund the under Abraham Witmer, the damages that result from its infringement! What an argument for a lawyer? Its simple statement carries with it, its own refutation. The Act of the Legislature fixing the county seat at Clearfield, is like every other Act of Assembly, and be a "contract" liable to infringement, no one save Abraham Witmer or his heirs could avail themselves of its breach to recover damages, and it is impossible for them to sustain any, as they do not own a foot of soil in or about the borough of Clearfield! To argue that the "owners of lots" who trace their title to Abraham Witmer, could recover damages for the violation of such a contract, is simply puerile. As well might it be said that I would have a right to recover damages from the owner of a manufactory who, after selling me a lot contiguous to it, removes his establishment, thus depreciating the value of my property. Yet were I to employ the learned author of the 'memorial' as my attorney to institute an acsuch an argument is idle. No one knows better than the writer of that "memorial," that if to prove, there would be no danger of the removal of the public buildings from Clearfield, for any Act of Assembly that would affect the rights of the parties under that "contract" would be declared, by the Supreme Court, unconstitutional and void. Hence if he believed his own argument, he would be the last man to spend fire days of his valuable time in the preparation of his "memorial," or exert himself to defeat the bill asked for by the citizens of Curwensville. He would calmly and dispassionately await the issue, and if they obtained the passage of an Act, go to the Suversal and firmly rooted principle, that no

first position. 2. His next "reason" is that the assessed value of the property of the citizens of your borough is greater than that of any two disrent. If the people of Clearfield are so very wealthy, and so much opposed to the removal to do what the people of Curwensville propose. and thus save the tax-payers the cost of their erection? Why, too, do they not build a respectable hotel, that when people attend court is a fact, known to every man compelled to it that will afford decent hotel accommodations. much he may be disposed to promote the comfort of his guests, to furnish proper entertain- instead of boasting over the cheap, uncomfortnow used as hotels. They would be a disgrace to a village possessing one-fourth the wealth He winds up his "fifthly" in laudation of the prising" and "public spirited" citizens of rich, and the loss of the public buildings so erect them at their own expense, together with val. One would suppose if poor, povertystricken Curwensville can afford to do so, that the wealthy nabobs of your enterprising borough would scarce miss from their overflowing coffers the paltry amount necessary for the purpose. It comes with a bad grace from men so opulent-the owners of such large possesslons-to ask the 'poor' taxpayers to improve their town and increase the value of their property, already worth more than twice as much as that of any other two districts in the county. The complacency with which the author of the "memorial" boasts of the affluence of your town, and at the same time asks those of other parts of the county, whom he demonstrates to be so poor in comparison, to forego the opportunity of having their public buildings erected free of cost, for the special advantage of the borough of Clearfield, reminds one very much of "beggars on horseback."

We come now to his 'third' division. 3. It is argued that "Clearfield borough is in a more central position than Curwensville." It is a well known fact that Curwensville is within two miles of the centre of the county, and assuming it to be otherwise, there can be but little doubt what conclusion will be arrived at, when the alternative is presented to the people of traveling a few miles farther, or paying increased taxes. But, says the "memorial," it "amounts to very little inasmuch as the fact." It it has, it is certainly not to be attributed to the redemption of the oft-repeated pledges of the "wealthy men of Clearfield." so far as they are concerned, might have been the faith they now pledge any better than they have heretofore done. Perhaps, when it comes ty. We come then to his fourth head.

4. The very strong and convincing argument

day, are so justly celebrated! Which of them has ever yet failed to make charitable gifts to among the millionaires of Clearfield, who pay taxes on \$190,064 worth of property, when they are worth in reality ten times that aspeculations," or "sharp" practice, or "sharp' shaving? No, certainly not! They belong to the dull, methodical, plodding, six per cent. stamp of "business men," who would shudder at the idea of shaving a note, or taking twenty per cent. off a "poor laborer or mechanic!" They are entirely too innocent to engage in so "sharp a speculation" as erecting the public They prefer to exercise their "business tact" in their usual way, by making the people 'pay the piper,' while they keep their money in their pockets. It is, however, I opine, a matter of indifference to the citizens of the county which money it received, and pay to the lot holders are the "sharpest" - the business men of Clearfield or Curwensville, so that the controversy results in the erection of new public buildings without expense to the tax payers. But, says the "memorial," during the last five years Clearfield, while there have been twenty-nine subject to repeal, change, or modification, by trom Curwensville! A powerful argument, the power that enacted it. But assuming it to truly! The learned author must surely have felt relieved after delivering himself of this destructive volley, and it is to be hoped he was on guard lest he met the fate of that renowned hero whose gun

"-when aimed at duck or plover. Recoiled and kicked its owner over."

If the proportion of business at Curwensville is so much greater, why surely there is the place the county buildings ought to be. It there is no necessity for them at Clearfield, why object to their removal? But we come now to the fifth branch of the subject.

5. After fishing here for some time to dis-

cover the "reason against the removal" which

ought to follow "5th," as promised in the commencement, I am led to conclude that it is betion under such circumstances, he would be cause the accomplished author of the "memolaughed out of Court. But the refutation of rial," in his expansion of heart, "pities the persons gifted with such narrowness of mind as to arouse personal feeling against individthere was really "a contract" such as he labors | uals in Clearfield !" I must confess, although I am able to find no other "reason" under "fifthly," that this one is decidedly above my comprehension, and I can only hope, if the removal of the public buildings is likely to diminish the "pity" that swells the palpitating breast of the learned author of the "memo rial," that the people of Curwensville will desist in their efforts, lest the large vacuum left in his susceptible bosom produce a collapse, and Clearfield county be left an orphan! How terrible a calamity! But I find another "reason" in 'fifthly' that escaped me-that "there are six churches in Clearfield"-and strange to preme Court and have it annulled on the uni- say this "reason" is accompanied with the candid acknowledgement that "they were built State can pass a law impairing the obligations not alone by this borough, but by contribuof "a contract." The tax-payers, therefore, tions from citizens of the county !" I pretopics best calculated to excite sectional re may rest assured that, if the public buildings sume there was no "sharp bhsiness tact" excan be removed at all, there will be no dama- ercised by these innocent, honest, wealthy ges to pay in consequence. So much for his men, in getting other people to build their churches? They were acting then, doubtless, as they are acting now, from principle, it being, for them, entirely too "sharp" a "speculation" to build either churches or court houses tricts in the county. Admitting it to be true, at their own expense. But true it is that the force of this argument is not very appa- there are six churches in Clearfield, and equally true it is, doubtless, that, like the hotels, they are grand and magnificent structures of the county buildings, why do they not offer | And they are worthy, too, of boasting! They cost, I presume, an enormous sum of money The whole six, perhaps, could not be built fo less than the cost of one of the palatial residences of these "wealthy men!" It would they can be comfortably accommodated? It have been better, perhaps, for the large hearted author of the "memorial," if he had left visit your town, that there is not a building in the "churches" out of the argument, for he cannot disguise the fact that there is not a It is impossible for any inn-keeper, however church edifice in your borough at all commensurate with the "wealth" of your citizens, and ment in the miserable, old, rickety buildings able structures used as churches, these "wealthy men" ought to hide their heads in shame. that the "Memorial" attributes to the "enter- "public spirit" and "liberality" of, I presume, these same opulent citizens who pay so much Clearfield. If the people of your town are so tax, and own so much property, and get other people to build their churches. He might great a calamity, why surely they can afford to have quoted, as a case in point, the subscription raised within a few days past, to defray a first class hotel, and thus prevent their remo- the expenses of printing his "memorial" and other documents. It was necessary to raise some twenty or thirty dollars, and these 'lib eral,' 'public spirited,' rich men, actually subscribed as high as two dollars each, and then went round to the "poor laboring men and mechanics" to raise the balance in twenty-five cent subscriptions! What excruciating "liberality !"

6. It is said "removals of county seats occasionally become necessary," and, I may add, this is especially the case when by removing them the tax payers can save some forty thousand dollars of expenditure, without discommoding themselves, and in addition get a better location. We come then to his "seventh' and last reason.

7. This consists of a proposal "that a com-

mittee of gentlemen of' your "borough, of undoubted means will guarantee that a new Court House shall be built for \$15,000,-with out any increase of taxation!" What a "liberal" and "public spirited" proposition! There is no evidence of "sharp business tact" in this offer? But how does it contrast with the proposal of the people of Curwensville? They offer to build, not only as good a Court House as can be found in any of the neighboring counties, but a new jail, (needed as bad as the court house,) and to erect a first class Hotel, so that the people when they attend Court can find comfortable and respectable accommodaerection of Pine county has become a fixed tions. They intend, also, to erect Gas works. of which the public buildings will derive advantage, and which will add to the comfort and enjoyment of the strangers who may so-If they have been suddenly waked up to the journ in their town during the courts. No one Pine county movement, the friends of that can fail to observe that if a new Court House measure may thank the people of Curwens- is crected in Clearfield borough, it will be but ville. Had there been no effort to move the a brief period until the tax-payers will be calpublic buildings, the erection of Pine county, led upon to build a new Jail, for it cannot be denied that the present structure is utterly postponed till the Day of Judgment; and it unfit for the purpose. So many prisoners have yet remains to be seen, whether they will keep | escaped from it, that it has really ceased longer to be a terror to evil doers. How much this has had to do with the recent alarming to be tested, they may be as loth to loose the increase of crime in our county, it is difficult large section of Clearfield county sought to be to say, but of one thing all are assured, that cut off, as they are now to relinquish the pub- a new Jail, capable of holding prisoners, is lic buildings. But there is nothing in the for- hadly needed, and must, sooner or later, be emation of Pine county to prevent the people | rected. The single instance of the escape and of Clearfield from erecting their public build- re-capture of Warden, about a year since, cost ings where they please, and where they can do the county a large sum of money, and since it at the least cost, and with the least difficul- that a number of persons have succeeded in getting off altogether. It is high time that s building should be provided that would be a here used why the public buildings should be terror to criminals, and a protection to the retained is, that the offer of Curwensville to lives and property of the community. Let erect them "is founded on speculation, and the "liberal," "public spirited," rich men of there is nothing in it but sharp business tact !" Clearfield agree to erect the public buildings

I suppose there was nothing "sharp" about A- | without any expense to the county, and so to braham Witmer when he paid three thousand improve their fown that persons compelled to dollars to get them located on his land? He visit it can obtain comfortable accommodadid'nt "make a good thing of it!" It wasn't tions, and it may be possible that the people. a "nice operation!" He didn't realize "a in the submission of the question, will decide large pile!" His three thousand dollars was, in their favor. All that Curwensville desires doubtless, a charitable gift to the "poor labo- is that the tax-payers of the county may have wherever the majority fix it-there let it be. The public buildings are the property of the people, over which they have a right to exercise control, and if they see proper to erect, or have them erected at Curwensville, or anywhere else, they have the power to do so. To deprive them of this right would be a gross outrage, only equal to that of depriving an individual from the control of his own private property-an enormity that dare not be perpetrated in our free and enlightened Commonwealth.

Having thus, as briefly as possible, examined the seven different branches of this "memorial," permit me to inquire-does it contain a single good "reason" why the public buildings should not be removed, if the taxpayers are thereby relieved from their erection? Do not all its "arguments" sum up in thisbuildings at their own expense. There can be no doubt that they would rather see the tax payers "sharp" enough to do it for them.

They prefer to exercise their "thus prefer to exercite their "thus prefer to exercise their "thus prefer to exercise they have grown wealthy, and now, when new ones must be erected, they refuse to do it themselves, and desire to prevent the tax-payers from taking them to where they can have it done without expense? I fear all the sophistry and special pleading of the learned auther of the "memorial" will fail to convince the people that they should forego the opportunity of getting their public buildings erected without cost, and build them at their own there have been but fire causes tried from expense, merely to gratify the opulent and wealthy men of Clearfield, and save them from the stings of conscience that would ensue on their engaging in any "sharp speculations!"

Awaiting the next manifesto from head quarters, I remain Yours, CURWENSVILLE.

PENNSYLVANIA ITEMS.

PREPARED FOR THE "RAFTSMAN'S JOURNAL." DELAWARE COUNTY .- On the 4th inst., William Sparks, a watchman at the railroad bridge at Ridley creek, died from an injury received a few days previous, from a piece of wood, projecting from a freight car, which struck kim on the head. Serious complaints are made relative to the bad condition of the roads in Chester Borough, and the Republican says a horse in charge of a teamster from the country got fast in the mud, a few days since, and came near perishing. Six or eight men were engaged nearly an hour in extricating him. It was thought at one time that the job would have to be abandoned. The delighted teamster, when his animal was released, turned his back upon the town, and resolved to haul no more lumber or coal until the roads became

CLINTON COUNTY .- As the Rev. S. B. Dalrymple, of Lock Haven, was returning from Bellefonte on the 6th inst., his horses frightened in the Flemington bridge. One of the horses was thrown off the bridge and Mr. D. precipitated out of the carriage, landing in the mud some 12 feet below. Neither the driver nor horse was injured, although the latter hung by one leg in the bridge some time before he was released. . . . One day last week, six boys were committed to jail in Lock Haven, for assaulting an old gehtleman with clubs, &c. Served them right.

CRAWFORD COUNTY .- As Col. Jos. Donglas Meadville, was passing up Chestnut street, about 10 o'clock, on Friday night to his residence, he was assaulted, thrown down and stabbed by some unknown villain. The affair took place just below the canal bridge, and owing to the darkness of the night the Col. was unable to distinguish or even see his assailant. The wound is about 31 inches in depth, upon his left side, below the arm. The blow was undoubtedly aimed at the heart. No doubts are entertained with regard to Mr. D.'s recovery.

BUTLER COUNTY .- Thos. Fletcher., Esq., ot Whitestown, struck a German, who was working for him, with a billet of wood, fracturing his skull and causing his death. It seems a difficulty had taken place, during which the German attempted to strike Mr. Fletcher, who seized a piece of wood and gave him the fatal blow. Fletcher is in prison. He admits the act, but says it was in self-defence.

VENANGO COUNTY .- The grocery store of H. Evans, of Franklin, was broken open on the night of the 6th, and a quantity of Coffee, Sugar, Oysters,&c., taken therefrom. Estrance was effected through the back door. The thief was evidently quite a modest one, else he might have taken more booty.

CAMBRIA COUNTY .- George Berkey, a hand in the Rolling Mill, at Johnston, had one of his legs fractured on Tuesday the 7th, by thefalling of a heavy piece of iron across it .-Michael Weyland, another hand, also met with a similar accident on Thursday, in the same

GeneralCass is very feeble. He is often confined to his room, and is compelled to forego all heavy labor in Washington.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

TYRONE AND CLEARFIELD RAIL-ROAD.—Notice is hereby given to the Stock-holders that an election for President and Directors of the Tyrone and Clearfield Railroad will be held on the 2nd Monday of January. (10th day.) 1859, at the office of the Company, in Philipsburg.

JAMES T. HALE, President. Chas. R. Foster, Sec. Dec. 15, 1868.

CLEARFIELD ACADEMY STOCKHOLD-ERS will meet at the office of James Wrig-ley, (Register and Recorder,) at Clearfield, on Monday the 3d day of January, 1859, at 2 o'clock, P. M., to elect a Board of Trustees and other officers, for the ensuing year. The stockholders are requested to attend J. B. M'ENALLY, Sec. Dec. 15, 1858. of the Board of Trustees

REGISTER'S NOTICE.—Notice is here, by given, that the following accounts have been examined and passed by me, and remain filed of record in this office for the inspection of heirs, legatees, creditors, and all others in any other way interested, and will be presented to the next Orphans' Court of Clearfield County, to be held at the Court House in the Borough of Clearfield, commencing on the third Monday of JANUARY, 1859, for confirmation and allowance

The partial account of John L. Cuttle, Executor of the estate of Solomon Kline, late of Lawrence township, Clearfield county, deceased.

JAMES WRIGLEY, Clearfield, Pa., Dec. 15, 1858.

LOOK HERE! LOOK HERE!!-The undersigned take this method of informing the public generally that they have entered into copartnership in the Blacksmithing business, and can be found at the shop formerly occupied by Jacob Shunkweiler, on Third street, in the borough of Clearfield, where they will be pleased to see their old customers, and as many new ones as can make it convenient, to give them a call.

Bring on your hoes, your spades, and picks, Your log chains and your pulling sticks, Your sleds, your sleighs, your horse and mare, No three-year old, shall then go bare. Your spears we'll work up then just right, To pruning hooks for every hight, Your swords too, shall then be wrought To plough-shares such as Cam ne'er bought.

J. SHUNKWEILER, Dec 6, 1858.